

Why are you using bags for the chalk backfilling made of a synthetic rather than a natural material ?

Natural bags would have introduced fresh biological material into the tunnel which would be subject to decay by biological organisms. The timber parts of Atkinson's tunnel, such as the wooden parts of the tunnel rings have decayed and what appear to the fungal hyphae (vegetative parts) from this decayed wood have been found in some of the looser adjacent deposits. We wish to avoid providing a new food source for this fungus or introducing new fungi or micro-organisms as far as possible and therefore decided to use polypropylene bags which are relatively inert.